

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A searching system for searching contents that were broadcast, the searching system having an inputting unit, a searching unit, and a terminal unit, wherein the inputting unit comprises:

first storing means for storing information representing at least time, but not station information, at which contents were broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation, said at least time being identified while said contents is being broadcast; and

first communicating means for transmitting the information representing time stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein the searching unit comprises:

second storing means for correlatively storing information representing contents and broadcast time thereof; and

searching means for searching information representing the contents stored in said second storing means corresponding to the information representing time, and

wherein the terminal unit comprises:

second communicating means for receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit through said first communicating means;

third communicating means for transmitting the information representing time received by said second communicating means and receiving search results transmitted from the searching unit; and

first displaying means for displaying the information representing time received by said second communicating means, the search results by the searching unit, and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 2 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the
contents.

Claim 3 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the searching unit transmits the information representing the contents
(referred to as first contents) that were broadcast at the time represented by the information
representing time and information representing contents (referred to as second contents) that
were broadcast earlier than those and as the search results to the terminal unit corresponding
to the information representing time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the
amount of the first contents.

Claim 4 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit
corresponding to the search results obtained by said searching means and displayed on said
first displaying means, the terminal unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the
search results is purchasable.

Claim 5 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein when the information representing time is received by said second
communicating means, the transmission of the information representing time from the
inputting unit to the terminal unit is virtually displayed.

Claim 6 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 5,
wherein the inputting unit further comprises:
second displaying means for displaying entries of information representing time
stored in said first storing means, and
wherein when the information representing time is received by said second
communicating means, the virtual display of said first displaying means of the terminal unit
is correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing time displayed on
said second displaying means of the inputting unit.

Claim 7 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 6,
wherein when the number of entries of the information representing time displayed on
said second displaying means decreases, the number of entries of the information
representing time displayed on said first displaying means increases.

Claim 8 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the terminal unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public
unit.

Claim 9 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the terminal unit is composed of a personal computer.

Claim 10 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the contents are a musical piece.

Claim 11 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 10,
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and
wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit
corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said
first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is
requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is
reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

Claim 12 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the contents are commodity information.

Claim 13 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the searching unit further comprises:
interface means for allowing information representing the contents stored in said
second storing means and/or broadcast time of the contents to be changed from an external
unit that has been properly filtered.

Claim 14 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the inputting unit further comprises:
program storing means for storing a control program that controls the inputting unit,
and
wherein the control program is transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit
by said first communicating means and said second communicating
means and stored to said program storing means.

Claim 15 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 14,
wherein the control program is transmitted from the searching unit to the terminal unit
by said third communicating means and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the
inputting unit.

Claim 16 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 14,
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
connecting means for connecting the terminal unit to a predetermined network, and
wherein the control program is transmitted to the terminal unit through the
predetermined network connected to the terminal unit and then transmitted from the terminal
unit to the inputting unit by said connecting means.

Claim 17 (Original): The searching system as set forth in claim 14,
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
reading means for reading data recorded on a predetermined record medium, and
wherein the control program is read from the record medium by said reading means
and transmitted to said inputting unit.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A terminal unit for causing contents that were
broadcast to be searched, comprising:
first communicating means for receiving time information, but not broadcast station
information, representing a predetermined time from an inputting unit and transmitting the
information representing the predetermined time to an external unit, said predetermined time

corresponding to a time at which a user-activated device was activated to record a time when the contents was being broadcast;

second communicating means for transmitting the information representing the predetermined time received from said first communicating means to a searching unit and receiving search results from the searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a storing means corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the storing means correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof; and

displaying means for displaying the information representing the predetermined time received by said first communicating means, the search results of the searching unit, and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 19 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

Claim 20 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein said displaying means displays the information representing the contents (referred to as first contents) that were broadcast at the time represented by the information representing the predetermined time and information representing contents (referred to as second contents) that were broadcast earlier than those and as the search results corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

Claim 21 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit
corresponding to the search results obtained by said searching means and displayed on said
displaying means, the terminal unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the search
results is purchasable.

Claim 22 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from
the inputting unit, said displaying means virtually displays the transmission of the
information representing the predetermined time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 22,
wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from
the inputting unit, the virtual display of said displaying means of the terminal unit is
correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing the predetermined
time displayed on a second displaying means included in the inputting unit.

Claim 24 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 23,
wherein when the number of entries of the information representing the
predetermined time displayed on said second displaying means decreases, the number of
entries of the information representing the predetermined time displayed on said first
displaying means increases.

Claim 25 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein the terminal unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public
unit.

Claim 26 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein the terminal unit is composed of a personal computer.

Claim 27 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein the contents are a musical piece,
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and
wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit
corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said
first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is
requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is
reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

Claim 28 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,
wherein a control program for controlling the inputting unit is transmitted to the
inputting unit by said first communicating means.

Claim 29 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 28,
wherein the control program is transmitted from the searching unit to the terminal unit
and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said second
communicating means.

Claim 30 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 28, further comprising:
connecting means for connecting the terminal unit to a predetermined network,
wherein the control program is transmitted from the predetermined network to the
terminal unit and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said
connecting means.

Claim 31 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 28, further comprising:
reading means for reading data from a predetermined record medium, and
wherein the control program is read from the record medium by said reading means
and transmitted to the inputting unit.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A terminal unit for causing contents that were
broadcast to be searched, comprising:

first storing means for storing time information, but not station information,
representing a predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation, said time
information being identified while said contents is being broadcast;

communicating means for transmitting the information representing the
predetermined time to a searching unit and receiving search results from the searching unit,
the searching unit searching information representing contents from a second storing means
corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the second storing
means correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time
thereof; and

displaying means for displaying the information representing the predetermined time
stored in said first storing means, the search results of the searching unit, and an indicator for

activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 32,
wherein said displaying means displays the information representing the contents
[[()referred to as first contents[()]] that were broadcast at the time represented by the
information representing the predetermined time and information representing contents
[[()referred to as second contents[()]] that were broadcast earlier than those and as the search
results corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the amount of
second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

Claim 34 (Original): The terminal unit as set forth in claim 32,
wherein the contents are a musical piece,
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and
wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit
corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said
first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is
requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is
reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A searching unit for searching contents that were
broadcast and transmitting search results to an external unit, comprising:

a database for correlatively storing information representing contents and broadcast
time thereof; and

a communication interface for receiving time information, but not station information, representing a predetermined time and identification information of contents from an external unit, said predetermined time corresponding to a time at which a user-activated device is operated to record a time at which the contents is broadcast,

wherein the information representing the contents is searched corresponding to the received time information representing the predetermined time and the received identification information of the contents to determine the search results to be transmitted to the external unit for display thereat with an indicator for activation at the external unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 36 (Original): The searching unit as set forth in claim 35,
wherein the search results are transmitted to the external unit through said communication interface.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A searching method for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing information representing at least time, but not station information, at which contents were broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation during broadcasting of the contents of an inputting unit to a first storing means;

(b) transmitting the information representing time stored in the first storing means to an external unit;

(c) causing a searching unit to search information representing contents stored in a second storing means corresponding to the information representing time;

(d) receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit at the first communicating step (b);

(e) transmitting the information representing time received at the second communicating step (d) and receiving search results transmitted from the searching unit;

(f) displaying the information representing time received at the second communicating step (d); and

(g) displaying the search results of the searching unit and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A searching method for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving timing information, but not station information, representing a predetermined time and identification information of contents from an external unit, said predetermined time corresponding to a time at which a user-activated device is operated to record a time at which the contents is broadcast;

(b) searching the information representing the contents from a database corresponding to the received time information representing time and the received identification information of the contents, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof; and

(c) transmitting search results searched at the searching step (b) to the external unit, the external unit displaying the search results received and an indicator for activation at the external unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A displaying method for causing a terminal unit to display search results of contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving time information, but not station information, representing a predetermined time from an inputting unit, said predetermined time corresponding to a time at which a user-activated device is operated to record a time when the contents is broadcast;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

(c) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time received at the first communicating step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying the information representing the predetermined time received at the first communicating step (a), the search results received at the fourth communicating step (d), and an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A displaying method for causing a terminal unit to display search results of contents that were broadcast along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing time information, but not station information, representing a predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation, said time information being identified while said contents is being broadcast;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing

contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(d) displaying the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) and the search results of the contents received at the second communication step (c) along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

(a) receiving time information, but not station information, representing a predetermined time from an inputting unit, said time information being identified while said contents is being broadcast;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

(c) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying at least the received search results along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

(a) storing time information, but not station information, representing a predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation, said time information being identified while said contents is being broadcast;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(d) displaying at least the search results on the terminal unit along with an indicator for activation at the terminal unit to cause downloading of the contents associated with the search results.

Claims 43-105 (Canceled).